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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/605,576	10/09/2003	Alan G. Dry	LC0134PUS	2575
36014	7590	10/30/2006	EXAMINER	
ARTZ & ARTZ, P.C. 28333 TELEGRAPH ROAD, SUITE 250 SOUTHFIELD, MI 48034			KUHN, ALLAN R	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1732	

DATE MAILED: 10/30/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/605,576

Applicant(s)

DRY ET AL.

Examiner

Allan Kuhns

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 August 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 16-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 23 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 16-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 22 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 080806.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

1. Please review the "Brief Description Of Drawings" as Figure 8, not Figure 7, appears to depict a mold and also the spelling of "polypropylene" in new claim 19.

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 16, 17, 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miller (5,298,306) as set forth in the rejection of claims 2-8 in the previous Office action in view of Han (6,409,209). While Miller only shows the forming of integral attachment members at a single end of a handle, Han discloses mounting a handle at each end at column 2, lines 52-54. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate this aspect taught by Han into the method of Miller in order to more securely attach the handle.

Han also teaches or suggests the use of attachment members having channel members therein for attaching a handle using mechanical fasteners, as in claim 17. Note Figure 4, for example.

4. Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miller in view of Han as applied to claims 16, 17, 19 and 20 above, and further in view of Weinerman et al. (4,850,209). Weinerman et al. disclose, at column 11, lines 45-49, the aspect of attaching a handle by heat staking. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate this aspect taught by Weinerman et al. into the

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method of the prior art relied upon since heat staking is shown to be an effective substitute for the use of mechanical fastening.

5.Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miller in view of Han as applied to claims 16, 17, 19 and 20 above, and further in view of Youngs et al. (6,892,496). Youngs et al. describe and illustrate the aspect of attaching a handle using two attachment members 78 on one of two ends of a handle at column 6, lines 6-15 and in Figure 5. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate this aspect taught by Youngs et al. into the method of the prior art relied upon in order to more securely attach a handle of the type taught by Youngs et al.

6.Claim 22 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In order to be allowed the step of claim 22 must be claimed positively, with the elimination of "can be".

7.Claim 23 is allowed.

8.Applicants' arguments filed August 8, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicants' arguments are considered to be moot by the examiner based on the revised grounds of rejection introduced in this Office action.

9.Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Allan Kuhns whose telephone number is (571) 272-1202. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday from 7:00 to 5:30.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christina Johnson, can be reached on (571) 272-1176. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Allan R. Kuhns
ALLAN R. KUHNS
PRIMARY EXAMINER AU 1732
10-26-06